



Delaware Nutrient Management



Meeting Minutes-March 7, 2017

The Delaware Nutrient Management Commission

In attendance:

Commission Members Present: Kenny Blessing, Laura Hill, Brenna Goggin, Robert Palmer, Mark Adkins, Lisa McCormick, William Vanderwende, Scott Webb, Dave Baker, Kenneth Horeis, Bud O'Neill

Ex-Officios Present: Chris Brosch, Michael Scuse, Jennifer Singh, Heather Hudson

Commission Members Absent: Richard Sterling, Jessica Inhof, Jim Elliott, David Small

Others Present: Kenny Bounds, Bob Coleman, Clint Gill, Aaron Givens, Brooke Walls, Julia Moore, Garry Killmon, Eugene Maute, Gerhard Maute, Wayne Hudson, , Harvey O. Thomas Sr., Sydney Riggi, Sally Kepfer, Richard Dye, Tina Gland, Donald Gland, Roland Hill, Bryan Ashby, Bill Rohrer, Amy Shober, Ben Johnson

This meeting was properly notified and posted as required by law.

Call to Order/Welcome:

Chairman Vanderwende called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., welcomed everyone in attendance, and reminded those seeking education credits to sign the sign-in sheet.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was heard to approve the minutes of the Full Commission Meeting of February 7, 2017. The minutes were approved by Ken Horeis and seconded by Lisa McCormick.

Discussion and Action Items:

Staff Updates and Introductions -

- Commissioner Dave Baker was gifted a commemorative plaque by Secretary Scuse as a big "Thank You" on behalf of the Nutrient Management Commission, the Agricultural Community and the State of Delaware, for his many years of dedicated service. It was noted that because of the effort and time he personally put into the Commission, Delaware is nationally noticed and years ahead of other states, and the room erupted into clapping in appreciation.
- Commissioner Baker admitted that his tenure has been longer than any others', and called out previous Commissioner Bill Rohrer as a workhorse who did so much with him and stated he is proud of what had been accomplished and what we have now.
- Chairman Vanderwende stood to give his personal thanks, stating that he remembers Dave's first meeting in 1999. He said Commissioner Baker was on the Planning Committee at that time, and became the backbone of the commission and its relationship with the EPA. He added that Commissioner Baker always knew what to say and when to say it, then when to shut up, as well.
- Chris Brosch handed out a "hot off the presses" list of Appointees, noting that the vacancies on the Commission can easily be seen there. He noted that we need to be thoughtful about who will fill some of them.
- Christ Brosch then announced that Heather Hudson has replaced Har Ming Lau as an Ex-Officio Commissioner, and introduced her to the group then read her biography, which is attached to this document.
- Chairman Vanderwende opened the floor for Vice-Chairman Nominees. Bud O'Neill nominated Kenneth Blessing, and Laura Hill Seconded it. Laura Hill motioned to close the nomination field and Bud O'Neill Seconded it. Commissioner Blessing was approved unanimously.

Chesapeake Bay Model - Presentation –

- Chris Brosch shared a slideshow entitled Nutrient Management News that he had prepared and presented to the DE Association of Conservation Districts in February. Copy is available upon request.
- The Commission was pleased to hear about the progress made in the development of tools related to the Chesapeake Bay TMDL that were more indicative of realistic agricultural management.

Administrators Report – Chris Brosch and staff

- Complaints - Bob Coleman reported that he had received 3 informal complaints since the last meeting. One was an improper field staging event, which is slated to be closed. The second was a recent odor complaint near Heritage Shores, and it also will be closed as the litter was disked in. The last involved improper storage of horse hay and manure at an equine facility. Bob was able to provide some resources to assist the owner, and a follow-up visit is scheduled for the 22nd to assess if the recommended changes have been put into play to help solve the problem.
- Certification – Chris Brosch reported that we had 14 newly certified individuals in the lowest categories.
- Audits and Inspections – Chris Brosch reported that 22 CAFO and Nutrient Management inspections were completed since 12/1/16.
- CAFO Update – Chris Brosch advised that we have authorized permit coverage for 58 farms out of an anticipated 218 in the “Need” category. We are awaiting one more tech response memo for an individual farm hearing.
- Salesforce update – Brooke Walls provided updated data:
 - 653 Annual Reports have been returned and entered as of 3/6/17, but are still flowing in.
 - Current acreage summarize in these reports is a new all-time high, 292,866 acres and climbing.
 - Approximately 120 additional responses indicating an Annual Report is no longer needed have been returned from our database clean-up efforts.
 - Approximately 30 reports still require follow up phone calls to be completed.
- Chris Brosch also announced proudly that this has been an unprecedented reporting year, noting that the close to 300,000 acres we’ve tallied from this year’s Annual Reports is 15% above the highest year ever.
- NM Plan Reimbursement (Acreage) - Chris Brosch noted that there is a wrong figure in the chart for FY16. Public (Conserv. Districts) Plans should reflect at 6,300 rather than 0. This change will bring the total for FY 2016 to 105,454 rather than 99,154. This will be reflected in the next Administrators Report.

Special Items / Public Questions

- Visitor and previous Administrator Bill Rohrer stood up and spoke a heartfelt tribute and thank you to retired Commissioner Baker. Among the remembrances was the fact that he had been active with the Nutrient Management Commission for 18 years and was Chairman of the committee culminating in House Bill 250 (Delaware’s original Nutrient Management Law).
- It was noted that the Governor’s Annual Report is due to be released before April 1.

Next Meeting: The next regular Full Commission meeting date was not set. Chris Brosch indicated it will be either April or May at 7:00 pm, based on how the Commission assignments have proceeded, so that a full agenda can be prepared and avoid wasting the time of the Council Members.

Adjournment: Chairman Vanderwende adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm.

Approved,

B. Vanderwende, Chairman
Delaware Nutrient Management Commission
jlm

Heather Hudson Biography

Heather Hudson began working at the Delaware Division of Public Health in August 2013 as an Environmental Scientist IV/Environmental Toxicologist in the Office of Environmental Health Toxicology where she prepares for and responds to urgent public health hazards, safeguards health and life safety, and collaborates with other state and local entities to provide scientific evidence for public health guidance. Heather has a Master's Degree in Environmental Science and is nationally certified as a Hazardous Materials Technician and Branch Officer. Heather served as an Environmental Consultant, managing staff at multiple sites for two (2) private firms that served the Mid-Atlantic Region prior to coming to Public Health. Heather has close to fifteen years of experience in environmental project management which includes planning, developing, implementing, managing and evaluating environmental projects. Heather's previous duties includes the interpreting and reporting under the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act (SARA), Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) Toxic Control Substance Act (TSCA) Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), and the Lead Housing and Urban Development Rule (HUD). Heather currently attends and/or serves on a variety of advisory groups, including the Local Emergency Planning Commission, the Delaware City Community Awareness and Emergency Response group, Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse, Air Quality Partnership, Laboratory Preparedness Advisory Committee, State Emergency Response Commission, and now has the pleasure of being the Public Health designee for the Nutrient Management Committee.